

STATE GOVERNMENT NEWS

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CONSTITUTIONS

Arizona Amendments -- Arizona voters in a September primary election approved constitutional amendments that provide pay raises for state legislators and permit retired judges to be called to service in the Superior or Supreme Courts. The pay raise amendment increases legislators' salaries from \$8 to \$30 per day, provides \$20 a day for special sessions and committee meetings and permits lawmakers to draw the same amount for daily expenses as other state employees.

Florida Revision -- Governor LeRoy Collins of Florida has named a constitution revision committee to study constitutional amendments and prepare a series of amendments for consideration by the 1959 legislature. William A. McRae, Jr. was appointed head of the committee, which includes the Chairman of the State Road Board, an Assistant Attorney General and the Legislative Chairman of the State League of Women Voters.

ELECTIONS

Montana Election Records -- A complete record of every election for state and national office held in Montana since the beginning of territorial days was completed recently by Ellis Waldron, Dean of the Montana State University Graduate School. The volume, of 428 pages, lists all of the more than 5,000 candidates who have sought state or national office in Montana, with their party affiliations and their records in primary and general elections. Also included is a record of all constitutional amendments and referendums. More than 150 maps show the development of the counties in the state.

Election Campaign Expenses -- The Washington Legislative Council has approved legislation to limit campaign expenditures of candidates for federal, state and county offices. The measure, to be submitted to the 1959 legislature, would limit a candidate's expenditures

in primary or general election campaigns to twice the annual salary of the office sought. Total expenditures for both campaigns could not exceed four times the annual pay of the office, and would have an absolute ceiling of \$90,000. The legislation also would require public reports identifying campaign contributors of \$50 or more. Persons in public office would be forbidden to use the employees, facilities or properties of the office in campaigning for re-election or for another public office.

SUGGESTED STATE LEGISLATION

Suggested State Legislation -- Program for 1959, developed by the Committee of State Officials on Suggested State Legislation of the Council of State Governments, has been distributed for consideration by the states in developing legislation in 1959.

The program consists of forty-four proposals in a wide range of subjects. Included are drafts of legislation on regulation and development of atomic energy, continuity of government in event of emergency, regulation of pleasure boats, jurisdiction over federal lands within the states, community mental health programs, protection of purchasers and consumers, jurisdiction over offshore waters and submerged lands, and crime control.

Subjects treated without specific drafts of legislation include various aspects of highway law, air pollution control, administration of water resources, urban renewal, migratory farm labor, regulation of employment agencies, and discrimination in employment because of age. The recommendations of the Joint Federal-State Action Committee are summarized.

Five new uniform or model acts and several amendments to existing acts are presented as promulgated in 1958 by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. One of the new acts is on water use and another deals with disposition of detainees in criminal cases. An amended Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act is among the other presentations.

The Committee of State Officials on Suggested State Legislation is composed of

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legislators, Attorneys General or their deputies, members of State Commissions on Interstate Cooperation, Uniform Law Commissioners, legislative service personnel and other state officials.

HIGHWAYS

Highway Access Decision -- The Idaho Supreme Court has ruled that loss of access to a public highway is just cause for compensation even though the property itself is left intact. The decision reversed earlier rulings that construed state law to mean that compensation could not be paid the owner so long as a construction project did not deprive him of actual property. The case involved a service station that was cut off from a street when the grade was raised to accommodate a new bridge approach. The high court said that "access right is appurtenant to the property...and to cut off such right without just compensation would constitute taking the owner's property without due process of law." The State Highway Department reported it would base compensation on the reduction in market value of the property involved.

Court To Consider Highway Cases -- The United States Supreme Court has agreed to review two cases involving highways and highway users. A federal district court decision ruling an Illinois mudguard law invalid will be reviewed. The district court held that the law was a restraint on interstate commerce. The high court also will consider a Pennsylvania case in which a three-judge district court invalidated a law making a road near Pittsburgh a safe-access highway. The lower court found that the state had made no provision to compensate owners of property abutting the road. It ruled that owners were entitled to such compensation under the Fourteenth Amendment.

License Fees -- The State Road Commission of Maryland has urged increased automobile license fees to raise funds for highway maintenance and to permit continuance of the state's long-range highway modernization program.

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Utility Reimbursement -- The Tennessee Supreme Court has ruled a 1957 utility reimbursement law unconstitutional. The decision reversed a lower court ruling. The high court said the law violated a provision of the state constitution which forbids the state's credit to be "loaned or given to or in aid of any person, association, company, corporation or municipality." The basic test, the court said, was whether the expenditure for utility relocation was for a state purpose. The State Highway Department had estimated that utility relocation costs in connection with Interstate System projects would exceed \$15 million.

TRAFFIC CONTROL, SAFETY

State Patrol Commendations -- The National Safety Council has announced that the California Highway Patrol and the Nebraska Safety Patrol have won special recognition for outstanding traffic safety records in the operation of police vehicles. The California police fleet also won a "Perfect Record" certificate indicating no reportable accidents. The state fleets were winners in a special division of the National Fleet Safety Contest conducted by the council and sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Police fleets of all states had a combined rate of .44 reportable accidents every 100,000 vehicle miles.

Safety Awards -- Michigan's diversified program of traffic safety activities has resulted in five major awards by four national groups. The National Safety Council presented awards to the State Police for its accident records and the Department of Public Instruction for outstanding performance in school traffic safety education activities. The American Automobile Association cited the state's consistent decreases in pedestrian fatalities and injuries. The Institute of Traffic Engineers presented a plaque to the State Highway Department for outstanding achievement in traffic engineering. The fifth award was made by the International Association of Chiefs of Police for the State Police traffic enforcement program. The state's traffic fatalities in 1958 through September 30 total 941 compared to 1,104 for the same period last year.

Auto License Plates -- A recent University of Illinois study of automobile license plates has concluded that auto licenses have just two functions -- identification and registration compliance. A report on the first phase of a research program on license plates indicated that advertising slogans and emblems were not a function of the plates and may actually hamper the true purposes of the license system. The report noted that while area designation on a license plate is not a basic function of the plate it may help law enforcement agencies when license distribution is local. The

research, under the sponsorship of the Illinois Secretary of State's office, will continue and will consider design of characters, colors, reflectorizing, and materials.

Traffic Safety Committees -- Governor James T. Blair, Jr., of Missouri, has appointed nine state government officials and department heads to serve on a new Governor's Coordinating Committee on Traffic Safety. Governor Blair, chairman of the committee, designated it the official state agency to work with a private citizens' traffic safety committee to insure a joint program of cooperative action. Already in the field is an interim legislative Committee on Traffic Safety which has drafted legislation for submission to the 1959 session of the General Assembly. Provisions of the proposed legislation include voluntary intoxication tests and a point system for traffic violations.

In New York, Governor Averell Harriman has issued an executive order formalizing the status of the Traffic Safety Policy Coordination Committee. The chairman of the committee will be the Secretary to the Governor and its membership will include representatives of the Department of Education, Department of Taxation and Finance, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Department of Health, Department of Public Works, Division of State Police, the State Traffic Commission and the Division of Safety. The committee is to advise the Governor on problems and developments affecting traffic safety and assist in formulating recommendations for executive and legislative action.

Automobile Clubs -- The Insurance Committee of the Oklahoma Legislative Council has recommended legislation to regulate automobile clubs. The proposed measures would: (1) require licensing by the Insurance Commissioner of companies offering motor club service; (2) require deposit of \$25,000 with the Commissioner; (3) exempt motor clubs from licensing if in continuous operation in the state for three years with annual membership of more than 500; (4) require licensing of agents selling memberships in automobile clubs; and (5) authorize the Commissioner to suspend or revoke licenses under certain conditions.

Wisconsin Study -- A study of hit-run accident court convictions in Wisconsin during 1957, reported by Melvin O. Larson, Commissioner of the State Motor Vehicle Department, indicates that more than 46 per cent of the cases concerned drivers under 21. Conviction of 194 motorists led to a twelve month loss of driving privileges for eighty-nine. The length of revocation ranged up to nine months. Seventy-five hit-run motorists were found guilty of additional offenses, including twenty-two who operated without a driver's license and twenty who drove while under the influence of intoxicants.

Divided Highways -- The New Mexico State Highway Department has reported on a study of a four lane divided highway and its traffic safety record. A thirty mile section of heavily travelled U.S. 85 outside Santa Fe was studied for six years -- three years of two lane operation and three of divided four lane operation. From 1951 to 1953, 273 accidents occurred on the two lane highway. From 1955 through 1957, after the highway section was improved and divided, the accident total dropped to 170. Fatal accidents declined from fifteen to six, personal injury accidents from eighty-one to fifty-one and property damage accidents from 177 to 113.

EDUCATION

Teacher Education -- The Idaho State Board of Education has requested eleven citizens to constitute a committee to study teacher education in the state. The committee will include representatives of teacher training institutions, elementary education administration, and citizen groups concerned with education. The study will include consideration of training in extension and correspondence courses. The board hopes the study will clarify teacher education as now practiced and indicate means for strengthening the program. Of concern to the board is the fact that some teachers undertake too little or too much college work while under contract for full time teaching.

Technical Education -- A preliminary report on vocational education in Oregon has recommended that post high school technical and semi-professional training be administered by institutions of higher education. The report is the result of a year-long study completed by W. R. Flesher of Ohio State University and financed by a \$50,000 legislative appropriation.

The report specifically recommended that Oregon Technical Institute at Klamath Falls be placed under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Higher Education and the administration of Oregon State College. Another recommendation advised the location, should the need arise, of a second technical institute in Portland as an administrative unit of Portland State College.

Also recommended was a legislative enabling act dividing the state into seven administrative units with authorization for each to elect a representative board to establish and operate a post high school educational center.

Education Survey -- The Superior Council on Education of the University of Puerto Rico has initiated a comprehensive survey of all public and private education in the common-

wealth. The survey was contracted by the Committee on Education of the Puerto Rico House of Representatives and will include all phases of the educational system of the commonwealth.

ATOMIC ENERGY

The Regional Advisory Council on Nuclear Energy, sponsored by the Southern Governors' Conference, has authorized early drafting of an interstate compact for nuclear energy. Meeting on October 26, the council also named Frank Norton, of Dallas, Texas, as Executive Vice-Chairman. The Southern Governors' Conference had requested that a draft compact for nuclear energy be ready for submission to the 1959 sessions of the southern legislatures and also extended the advisory council's life for two years pending establishment of the compact agency.

MENTAL HEALTH

Elderly Mental Patients -- Problems of elderly patients are pointed up in a recent report by James Cromwell, M.D., Director of Mental Institutions in Iowa, on that state's mental hospitals.

The patient population of the state's four mental hospitals totaled 4,850 as of June 30 -- the lowest number since the early 1920's. Modern treatment methods, Dr. Cromwell said, have sharply reduced the time a patient need be hospitalized.

But, his report continues, elderly patients present a special problem. Twenty-eight per cent of the patients admitted to the state hospitals have been those over 60 suffering from senile psychosis or cerebral arteriosclerosis. In addition, numerous elderly patients suffer from schizophrenia, which modern treatment can help.

Dr. Cromwell urged early diagnosis and intensive treatment. "The longer the patient stays," he said, "the more difficult it is for him to be released, even when better treatment later becomes available."

The report estimated that by 1970, one in nine Iowa citizens will be over 65.

Mental Health Training -- The Southern Regional Education Board has awarded sixteen grants for in-service training of staff members of southern mental institutions. The grants were to workers in mental institutions in Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. The awards were made possible by a \$90,000 grant by the National Institute of Mental Health. They are designed to enable staff members of mental hospitals or training schools in the South to observe new or unusual programs in other hospitals anywhere in the country.

Mental Health Survey -- Following a mental health survey in Puerto Rico, a report has been issued recommending establishment of a Commonwealth Department of Mental Health. The survey was conducted under an agreement between the Speaker of the Commonwealth's House of Representatives on behalf of the Committee on Public Health and Welfare and the Medical Director of the American Psychiatric Association. The report recommends that the proposed department be responsible for treatment and prevention activities concerned with mental health, mental retardation, alcoholism, epilepsy and drug addiction.

Clinics and Institutions -- Two coordinating and advisory committees appointed by Governor George D. Clyde of Utah recently presented preliminary reports to a conference of the Utah Association of Mental Health. The reports, not yet submitted to the Governor, proposed broad changes in the state's approach to mental illness.

The Chairman of the Committee on Mental Health reported recommendations by it for establishment of regional mental health centers across the state. Operating costs would be met by matching funds from the state and regions. The centers would provide limited out-patient care and a central location for other mental health activities. An additional recommendation would bring formation of a committee to coordinate the activities of many overlapping agencies in the mental health and welfare fields. Another committee would consider specific mental health problems, correlate information from all agencies, maintain a central filing system, analyze agency abilities to meet problems, and avoid duplication of agency efforts.

Recommendations of the second advisory committee, investigating the defective delinquent and the aggressive sex criminal, urged strengthening of services dealing with behavioral problems and use of present staffs and facilities as well as interstate compacts to deal with problem sex offenders.

SUPPORT OF DEPENDENTS

Nonsupport Conferences -- A series of conferences on support-of-dependents legislation was held in New York City October 9-10.

On the first day New York state and local officials discussed operations under the state's Uniform Support of Dependents Law. Participants included county attorneys, judges of children's courts, court clerks, county welfare workers and staff members of the State Department of Social Welfare. Use of the law within the state and handling of cases between New York and other states were examined.

On October 10 representatives of ten northeastern states participated in a Regional Conference on Reciprocal Support Legislation. The consensus was that this legislation is being used effectively and extensively in their states. Participants noted some prob-

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lems, however, which continue to hamper operations, including difficulties in locating responsible relatives and lack of cooperation by authorities in some jurisdictions. Responsibilities of information agents, welfare agencies, petitioners' representatives and the courts all received attention. A report was made on a series of proposed amendments developed by the Commissioners on Uniform State Laws for the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act. The conference recommended a number of items for consideration at the National Conference on Reciprocal Support Legislation to be held in Miami Beach, Florida, November 19-21.

CORRECTIONS

Proposed Washington Facility -- The State of Washington has initiated plans for an intermediate state correctional institution for youthful offenders, to cost an estimated \$8.6 million. The state has requested \$109,552 from the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency to pay for designing the institution, under a program which provides for public works planning. Governor Albert D. Rosellini has indicated that the institution is needed to accommodate the anticipated 1965 correctional population, but that he will re-examine the state financial condition when the 1959 legislature meets before deciding whether to seek funds for the construction. Initially, the proposed institution would house 750 inmates, and it could be expanded to accommodate an additional 370. It would include a reception and diagnostic center to which all convicted felons would be sent.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

California Statistical Abstract -- California has announced publication for the first time of a state Statistical Abstract. The abstract is patterned after the Statistical Abstract of the United States and is organized in twenty-four sections with more than 240 tables. The publication provides current and historical information on the people, government, resources, and economy of the state. It was compiled by the State Interdepartmental Research Coordinating Committee and is sponsored by the Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Commerce and Economic Development. The publication is available from the Documents Section, Printing Division, Sacramento, California, for \$3.50, plus 14 cents sales tax for California purchasers.

Industrial Development -- An area survey of industrial development in North Carolina by the magazine Industrial Development reports that the state gained 361 new or expanding plants in fiscal 1958. The plants represented a total increase in investment of more than \$243 million.

Wagering Stamps -- A new Illinois rule empowers the State Liquor Control Commission to revoke or suspend liquor licenses for possession of federal wagering or slot machine stamps. The new rule went into effect September 1. Its aim is to discourage gambling at places where alcoholic liquors are sold.

Oklahoma Development Fund Proposed -- The Judiciary Committee of the Oklahoma State Legislative Council has approved a plan to create a \$10 million revolving fund to help finance new industries in the state. The plan, submitted by the Governor's Economic Development Committee, calls for a bond issue and creation of an Oklahoma Industrial Finance Authority to administer the fund in the form of loans. The program would require voter approval in the form of a constitutional amendment. Under the plan local groups would put up 25 per cent of the new plant facilities, private agencies would underwrite 50 per cent and the new authority would contribute the remaining 25 per cent as a loan.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Resources -- Colorado has earmarked \$39,600 for a cooperative study with the federal government of surface water resources in the state. The United States Geological Survey will match the sum for the joint investigation.

Wabash Valley Meeting -- The Joint Committee on Drafting a Wabash Valley Compact met on October 21 in Chicago, with representatives appointed by the Governors of Illinois and Indiana in attendance. Objective of the proposed compact is a comprehensive study and planning of all aspects of development in the Wabash Valley on an area-wide basis. The consensus was that such study and planning should be oriented to evaluate flood control, water supply and storage installations, transportation developments, electrical power installations, stream pollution abatement and land use planning and zoning. Participants expressed the hope that the compact could be presented to the state legislatures at the 1959 sessions. The committee will meet again November 18 and December 9.

INCodel Annual Meeting -- The Interstate Commission on the Delaware River held its annual meeting in Atlantic City, New Jersey, October 2-3. Attending were representatives from the four member states -- Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania -- and from various federal agencies and private organizations concerned with Delaware River Basin resources.

Cave Purchase -- Governor Albert B. Chandler of Kentucky announced in October that agreement had been reached for purchase of the Great Onyx Cave for \$378,745. The state also plans to secure an option to purchase the Floyd Collins' Crystal Cave. Kentucky's plan is the merger of these cave facilities with Mammoth Cave National Park for a single non-competitive tourist attraction. It is expected that bonds will be issued to pay for the purchases. Under an arrangement with the federal government, title will be transferred to the federal government which will assume responsibility for bond payments.

The conference heard a report from the Corps of Engineers on a survey under way with respect to development of the river and its tributaries. Numerous project sites have been identified, and detailed studies are in progress. On the basis of the studies and consultations with interested agencies and groups, the Corps will formulate plans to meet needs for flood control, water supply, recreation, power and other purposes.

The commission also received and discussed a report on governmental organization for resource development throughout the basin. This is the subject of a comprehensive survey in process at Syracuse University at the request of various groups in the basin. The survey is intended to provide guidance in determining roles of existing or new governmental agencies in carrying out the resource development plans being prepared by the Corps.

Francis A. Pitkin of Pennsylvania was re-elected Chairman of the commission. Raymond B. Phillips of Delaware, James Kearney, Jr. of New Jersey and Senator Elisha T. Barrett of New York were elected Vice-Chairmen.

West Virginia Proposals -- Legislative proposals for control of water resources in West Virginia were outlined recently at a meeting of the Joint State Legislative Committee on Government. The proposals would broaden functions of the State Water Commission to include surveys of water resources, planning for conservation and development, and cooperative efforts with other state and federal agencies in water management.

Water Allocation -- The papers and proceedings of a symposium on water allocation, held in Washington, D.C. in 1956, have now been published by the Conservation Foundation. Entitled The Law of Water Allocation In The Eastern United States, the publication is intended for those concerned with state water rights legislation and water allocation policy, including legislators and officials seeking means of adapting existing laws to changing patterns of water use.

An analysis of eastern and western water law is presented, along with conclusions about necessary elements of a comprehensive water allocation law. Symposium papers include presentations on a Massachusetts case study of the consequences of introducing a prior appropriation system, the legal aspects of water use in North Carolina, the Michigan law on allocation, and the effect of eastern appropriation proposals on existing rights.

A discussion session concerning legislative alternatives concluded the symposium. The report on it includes comments on institutions and government agencies operating under appropriation law but developing and distributing water on another basis. The volume, of 643 pages, contains a bibliography of selected state publications on water. It is available from the Ronald Press Company of New York.

STATE ORGANIZATION, MANAGEMENT

State Reorganization -- A Missouri Committee on State Reorganization has completed an interim study of recommendations made in 1955 by the state's "Little Hoover Commission." Organized late in 1953, the commission made a year-long study of the executive branch of the state government. A report was issued containing 112 recommendations, designed to achieve greater efficiency, more effective service and greater economy. The interim committee was named in 1957 to study the status of the original recommendations and to suggest legislation for their further implementation. It determined in hearings that about half of the recommendations had been put into effect by statute or administrative action. Bills in line with nearly a dozen additional recommendations are now being prepared for submission to the 1959 session of the General Assembly.

Financial Report -- Rhode Island recently issued to the public a condensed Annual Financial Report for the year that ended June 30, 1958. This is the first time the state has made the annual report available to the general public. The condensed report, summarizing general fund income and expenditure, includes data for local assistance and major construction projects and details of state financial assistance to cities and towns. Also listed are expenditures under the federal grants programs and a summary of state debt figures for various purposes and programs.

New Governor's Mansion -- Construction of Montana's new \$178,000 Governor's Mansion near the capitol is almost completed. Interior decoration is expected to be finished in November. The present mansion, now to be replaced, was built in 1887.

Personnel Merit System -- A report by the Task Force on Personnel of the Vermont "Little Hoover Commission" has recommended increased acceptance of merit system principles in the state's personnel program. The group presented forty-one recommendations to the commission to facilitate acceptance of the system by heads and members of operating agencies. The task force reported that the proposed measures would provide greater flexibility and initiative, closer cooperation, increased quality of services, and simplified procedures in the personnel program.

FINANCE

Texas Revenue -- Texas state revenues increased more than \$54 million in fiscal 1958 over comparable figures for 1957. The increase was in spite of a \$21 million loss in oil taxes and a \$10 million drop in land leases and royalties. R. S. Calvert, State Comptroller of Public Accounts, reported that the higher total was mainly due to an increase of almost \$50 million in federal aid for highways and public welfare; varying increases in tax returns from ad valorem sources, inheritances, poll taxes, insurance companies, cigarettes and franchises; and a \$10 million rise in automobile license receipts.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Fiscal Administration -- A combination of recent legislation and a better system of state audits has resulted in improved fiscal administration for Tennessee counties. In 1957 the legislature, at the request of State Comptroller William R. Snodgrass, enacted several bills providing for a uniform fiscal year for counties; monthly and quarterly statements of beginning balance, receipts, disbursements and ending balance of all funds administered by any county office or agency; and uniform official bonds for all county officials required to execute bonds. In line with these statutory requirements the Comptroller's audit report now contains fund balance sheets and budgetary operating statements in addition to statements of revenues and expenditures. Legislation also permits any county to set up modern purchasing, budgeting and accounting systems. The laws set out the major provisions which must be incorporated into such systems and the procedures to be followed.

County Assessment Practices -- The right of the Montana State Board of Equalization to intervene in county assessment practices to assure accurate evaluation of property for tax purposes has been upheld by the State Supreme Court. The case went to the high court in an original proceeding brought by the board after a district court order blocked its call for a public hearing to set values on farm lands. The Supreme Court held that the board has a constitu-

AUTUMN ISSUE OF STATE GOVERNMENT

Three articles on Alaska, soon to become the Forty-ninth State of the Union, are among the features of the Autumn issue of *State Government*, published quarterly by the Council of State Governments. Additional offerings include presentations on Missouri's advance in budgeting and management, the work of the late Chief Justice Vanderbilt of New Jersey, and state government programs in the light of economic conditions. Two papers deal with the present and potential role of electronics in data processing and traffic control, and one with uses of microfilm in government. Mental health manpower in relationship to state resources is another subject of treatment, and a progress report is presented on Minnesota's "Self-Survey." A summary of outstanding legislation adopted by the legislatures in 1958 concludes the issue.

tional duty to adjust and equalize the valuation of all taxable property among the counties and between individual taxpayers. Local courts, it said, may intervene only if there is evidence that the board acted "arbitrarily, fraudulently or contrary to law."

THE COURTS

Juror Interrogation -- The Illinois Supreme Court has adopted a new rule affecting preliminary examination of jurors. Previously prospective jurors were examined by opposing counsel. Under the new rule the judge will initiate preliminary examinations of jurors, both in civil and criminal cases. Parties in the cases or their attorneys are to be allowed reasonable opportunity to supplement such examination but shall not directly or indirectly examine jurors concerning matters of law or instructions. The plan follows one long practiced in the federal courts and in some state courts.

Courtroom Broadcasts -- The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals has ruled that Canon 35 of the Canons of Judicial Ethics gives trial courts discretionary authority to permit photographing, broadcasting and televising of courtroom proceedings. The opinion of the Oklahoma court followed an opinion of the Colorado Supreme Court in *re Hearings Concerning Canon 35*. The Oklahoma decision involved the objection of a burglary defendant that he was prejudiced by the presence in the courtroom of television cameras that gave the jurors an exaggerated idea of the case's importance. The court said that constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and press require the courts to make no distinction between the various methods of communication.

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FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

Joint Action Committee -- The Joint Federal-State Action Committee held its fifth meeting at Hanover, New Hampshire, September 8-9.

The committee adopted a proposal recommending that Congress amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide a tax credit against the federal tax on local telephone service for a five year period to taxpayers in states enacting a 3 per cent local telephone tax. The credit would be an amount equal to 30 per cent of the present 10 per cent federal tax.

In addition, the revenue equivalent of 1 per cent of the federal tax on local telephone service would be distributed by the Treasury Department to certain states as an equalizing factor. The 1 per cent distribution, supplementing the credit in thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia, was proposed to enable them to assume full responsibility without federal grants for vocational education and waste treatment projects. These federal grants would be terminated under the plan. The revenue sources made available to each state would be more than equivalent to the costs of the functions assumed by them.

As part of its work on financial problems the committee requested the joint staffs and the technical committee to study the feasibility of replacing specific grants with block grants and the practicability of revising present grant formulas to relate grants to per capita income.

A summary of state actions in the field of atomic energy was presented at the meeting. The summary included measures taken by the states for radiation protection and to encourage industrial uses of atomic energy.

Among other developments the committee approved a proposal to expand the liaison work of the Council of State Governments

with the office of the Deputy Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Relations. The proposal is to be reviewed by the Executive Committee of the Governors' Conference and the Board of Managers of the Council meeting in Chicago December 2 and 3 respectively.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Fourteenth Biennial General Assembly of the States will be held December 4-5 at the Sheraton Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, with several hundred state legislative and administrative representatives in attendance. The assembly is sponsored by the Council of State Governments.

Panel discussions and addresses will deal with a wide range of state programs and problems, including atomic energy, problems of the aging, water resources, education, metropolitan areas, veterans affairs, mental retardation and federal-state relations.

Governor William G. Stratton of Illinois, President of the Council of State Governments for the past year, will deliver the address of welcome, and Governor LeRoy Collins of Florida, Chairman of the Governors' Conference, will address the assembly on "Emerging Responsibilities of the States."

Sumner G. Whittier, Administrator of Veterans Affairs, will address a session on veterans programs. School curricula will be the subject of a presentation by James B. Conant, Former President of Harvard University.

The work of the Joint Federal-State Action Committee will be reported by Governor Lane Dwinell of New Hampshire. Also scheduled for discussion is the Report of the Conference of Chief Justices Committee on Federal-State Relationships as Affected by Judicial Decisions. Chief Judge Albert Conway of the New York Court of Appeals will present the report.

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